

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A bone spreader for spreading bones apart, comprising:
 - a parallel guide system with a guide bar having a noncircular cross section;
 - a first pin and a second pin;
 - a first tubular pin holder and a second tubular pin holder connected to one another by the parallel guide system, the first and second tubular pin holders configured to receive the first pin and second pin, respectively, to couple adjacent bone parts that are to be spread apart to the parallel guide system, and at least one of the first and second tubular pin holders being arranged rigidly on the guide bar to guide parallel displacement of the bones, and having a locking device for a respective one of the first and second pins after being positioned therethrough; and
 - wherein the first and second pins each have at least one transverse groove formed therein, the locking device includes a locking finger which is guided between a locking position and a release position in a transverse movement tangentially with respect to the tubular pin holder, the locking finger being configured to engage in the groove in the locking position, and the tubular pin holders are arranged in planes which are perpendicular to the guide bar.
2. (Previously Presented) The bone spreader as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locking finger is in the form of a hook which is mounted at an open end of the tubular pin holder closer to the parallel guide system and is pivotable about an axis extending approximately parallel to said tubular pin holder.
3. (Currently Amended) A method for spreading bone parts apart comprising:
 - introducing a first pin into a first bone part and a second pin into a second bone part;
 - introducing a free end of the first pin into a first tubular pin holder of a parallel guide system;
 - introducing a free end of the second pin into a second tubular pin holder of the parallel guide system;
 - securing the free end of the first pin to the first tubular pin holder with a first locking device;

moving the first and second pins relative to one another by operation of the parallel guide system to spread apart the first and second bone parts; and

implanting ~~a cervical~~ an intervertebral prosthesis between the first and second bone parts.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

~~introducing a free end of the second pin into a second tubular pin holder of the parallel guide system; and~~

securing the free end of the of the second pin to the second tubular pin holder with a second locking device.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the first pin includes at least one transverse groove.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein ~~[[he]]~~ the first locking device is a locking finger.